

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A data switch having a plurality of ingress/egress ports and for transmitting data packets including a destination address, the data switch having address table construction means for generating a table containing associations between ports of the switch and MAC addresses of any devices connected to the switch via those ports, the address table construction means being operable to construct said table in respect of all but a first one of the ports, wherein the data switch is configured to not insert an association between a certain MAC address and said first one of the ports into said table when the data switch identifies that the certain MAC address is associated with said first one of the ports.

2. (Previously Presented) A data switch according to claim 1 in which the address table construction means is further operable to construct said table in respect of all of the ports, according to a setting of a control register.

3-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A device including a data switch according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of ingress/egress ports comprises a first ingress/egress port and a plurality of other ingress/egress ports, and wherein the data switch further comprises:

a table store configured to store a table containing associations between the plurality of other ingress/egress ports and MAC addresses of any devices connected to the switch via the plurality of other ingress/egress ports;

a switching fabric, and

a control unit operable to control the switching fabric, the control unit being arranged, upon receiving a data packet from any of the other ingress/egress ports having a destination address which is not stored in the table, to control the switching fabric to transmit the data packet to the first ingress/egress port.

12. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 11, wherein the first ingress/egress port is adapted to be connected to a communication network.

13. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the other ingress/egress ports is arranged to receive and transmit voice signals.

14. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 13, further comprising a microphone, a speaker, circuitry configured to transform sound signals received from the microphone into data packets and to transform data packets into control signals for the speaker, and wherein the circuitry is coupled to the at least one of the other ingress/egress ports arranged to receive and transmit voice signals.

15. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, further including sockets adapted to connect one or more of the other ingress/egress ports to devices which each have a MAC address.

16. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein the first ingress/egress port is adapted to be connected to a communications network.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a data switch comprising a first ingress/egress port and a plurality of other ingress/egress ports, the method including:
generating a table containing associations between at least the plurality of other ingress/egress ports of the switch and MAC addresses of any devices connected to the switch thereby,

stopping generation of the table before MAC addresses of at least some devices operably coupled through the first ingress/egress port are associated with the first ingress/egress port in the table, and

discarding a data packet received from the first ingress/egress port that does not have a destination address associated according to the table with any of the other ingress/egress ports.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein stopping generation of the table occurs after at least one MAC address of at least one device operably coupled through the first ingress/egress port is associated with the first ingress/egress port in the table.

19 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising:
receiving a data packet having a destination port MAC address absent from the generated table; and
forwarding the data packet to the first ingress/egress port.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein forwarding the data packet further comprising forwarding the data packet only if the data packet was received from one of the plurality of other ingress/egress ports.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising: converting analog audio signals to data packets; and
providing the data packets to one of the other ingress/egress ports.

22-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a data switch for switching data packets including a destination address, the data switch comprising a plurality of ingress/egress ports, the method comprising:

generating a table containing associations between ports of the switch and MAC addresses of any devices connected to the switch via those ports, the generation of the table including constructing said table in respect of all but a first one of the ports, wherein an association between a certain MAC address and said first one of the ports is not inserted into said table when the certain MAC address is identified as being associated with said first one of the ports.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the plurality of ingress/egress ports includes a plurality of other ingress/egress ports, and wherein the data switch further comprises a memory storing a table containing associations between the other ingress/egress ports and MAC addresses of any devices connected to the switch via the other ingress/egress ports, the method further comprising:

receiving a data packet from any of the other ingress output ports, and transmitting the data packet to the first ingress/egress port if the data packet contains a destination address that is absent from the table.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising: transmitting the data packet to a corresponding ingress/output port if the data packet contains a destination address that is present on the table.